

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 230736 TOSEC 270284

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 SS-15 SAB-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /040 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:SMBELL:JFL:ASM

APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

S/AB:EBUNKER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230736 TOSEC 270284

TO THE SECRETARY FROM LUERS, ACTING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR,PN

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: PANAMA

TEGUCIGALPA FOR SHLAUDEMANN

REF: STATE 227370 TOSEC 270111 (NOTAL)

1. PANAMA IS BEING TROUBLESOME AS A RESULT OF THEIR
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE NON-RESUMPTION OF TREATY TALKS.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 16 THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HERE HANDED TO
DAVID BINDER, ON INSTRUCTIONS, "A CHRONOLOGY OF A DANGEROUS
FLIP FLOP". IT IS INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THE ADMINIS
TRATION HAS RENEGED ON VARIOUS COMMITMENTS TO CONTINUE
NEGOTIATING AFTER KANSAS CITY AND PRIOR TO OUR ELECTIONS.

3. BINDER IS GATHERING MORE INFORMATION FROM US AND
OTHERS. HE WILL REPORTEDLY GO INTO PRINT OVER THE WEEKEND
OT;ER MEDIA PEOPLE WILL PROBABLY PICK THIS UP.

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4. AFTER LEARNING OF STORY FROM BINDER WE SUGGESTED TO JORDEN THAT HE SEE PRESIDENT LAKAS AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD AT ONCE TO CONVEY OUR ASTONISHMENT AND CHAGRIN - IN VERY PLAIN TERMS - AT WHAT WE CAN ONLY REGARD AS:

-- AN UNJUSTIFIED ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO SEEK A NEW TREATY;

-- AN EFFORT TO EMBARRASS THE PRESIDENT AND YOU AND, CONSEQUENTLY, AN INTRUSION INTO OUR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROCESS;

-- AN INDICATION THAT PANAMA MAY NO LONGER BE SERIOUS ABOUT NEGOTIATING WITH US;

-- AND, INCIDENTALLY, YET ANOTHER VIOLATION OF NEGOTIATING CONFIDENTIALITYAN UNCIVIL TREATMENT OF BUNKER, WHO HAS DONE MUCH FOR PANAMA....AND A PRESSURE TACTIC WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY RISIN ABOVE.

5. ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS WERE MADE THAT SAME EVENING BY MINISTER BELL TO PANAMA'S CHARGE, WHO REPLIED ONLY THAT HE WOULD CONVEY OUR VIEWS.

6. ONCE WE HAVE JORDEN'S REPORT WE WILL SUGGEST COURSES OF ACTION TO YOU.

7. WE BELIEVE WITH JORDEN THAT PANAMA DID NOT CAREFULL THINK OUT IN ADVANCE THE IMPLICATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF THIS "SNEAK ATTACK".

8. ATTACK NO DOUBT DIRECTLY RELATED TO GOP'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (SEE STATE 227370). GOP CLOSED SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND BANNED DEMONSTRATIONS LATE 9/L5 AND FOLLOWED UP WITH A SHOW OF POLICE FORCE THE NEXT MORNING

9. CALM HAS BEEN RESTORED FOR PRESENT BUT WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT TORRIJOS REGIME HAS BEEN IN POWER EIGHT YEARS AND NO LONGER BRIGHT AND SHINY. TORRIJOS HAS LITTL CONFIDENTIAL

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FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH HIS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS AND WE ARE A CONVENIENT AND PLAUSIBLE SCAPEGOAT. ROBINSON

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